



# Planning for an Uncertain Future

## Connecting Regional Resource Management Strategies to the California Water Plan

Rich Juricich  
California Department of Water Resources  
David Groves  
RAND Corporation

*Update 2013  
California Water Plan*





FLOODS



DECLINING ECOSYSTEMS

# Risk, Uncertainty, and Sustainability



DROUGHT



ENERGY  
CRISIS



# Planning for an Uncertain Future

Seeking shared understanding of :

- 💧 The existing state (of water) in the regions
- 💧 A range of multiple, plausible future conditions
- 💧 What the options are to manage current and future conditions
- 💧 The options that seem to make the most sense to invest in, in different regions



# Partnering with the California Water Plan

- 💧 Highlight priorities in your region
  - Resource management strategies
  - Management objectives
- 💧 Define success for your region
  - Important performance measures
- 💧 Identify interregional connections
  - Dependencies and partnerships



# Benefits of Partnering with the California Water Plan

- 💧 Access to WEAP model
- 💧 Scientifically vetted scenarios of future climate change
- 💧 Quantified information on Inter-regional connections (runoff, stream flow, groundwater)
- 💧 Extensive public outreach and inclusion in Update 2013
- 💧 Coordination with Basin Study and System Re-operation Study



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# On the Agenda Today

- 💧 Learn about the tools and analysis the California Water Plan is using to evaluate risk and uncertainty
- 💧 Solicit your advice on describing resource management strategies in your region
- 💧 Solicit your advice on defining success for your region with respect to integrated regional water management



# Key Terms

- 💧 **Performance measure**
- 💧 **Resource management strategy**
- 💧 **Response package**
- 💧 **Scenario**





# Planning Approach for 2013 Update

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# CWP Planning Approach Designed for Long-term Decision-making

- 💧 *The future is uncertain:* no single prediction of the future is adequate for planning
- 💧 *There is no silver bullet:* there are many options and important tradeoffs among them
- 💧 *Analysis can only inform policy decisions:* Analysis supports deliberation over tradeoffs



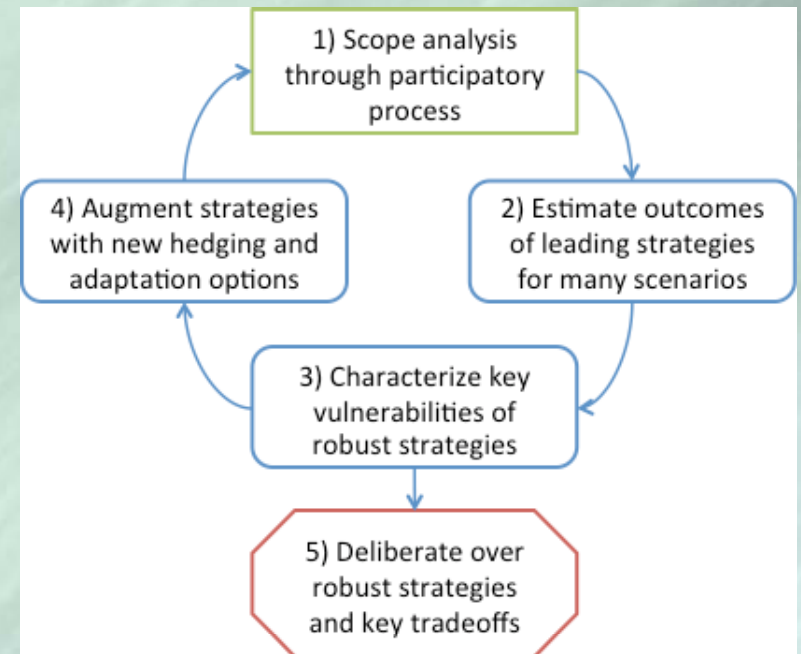
# Planning Approach Has Been Applied at the Regional and Local Scales in California

- 💧 *Inland Empire Utilities Agency: Preparing for an Uncertain Future* (NSF: 2006-2008)
- 💧 *Metropolitan Water District of Southern California: Vulnerability Assessment of its 2010 Integrated Resources Plan* (MWD: 2011-present)



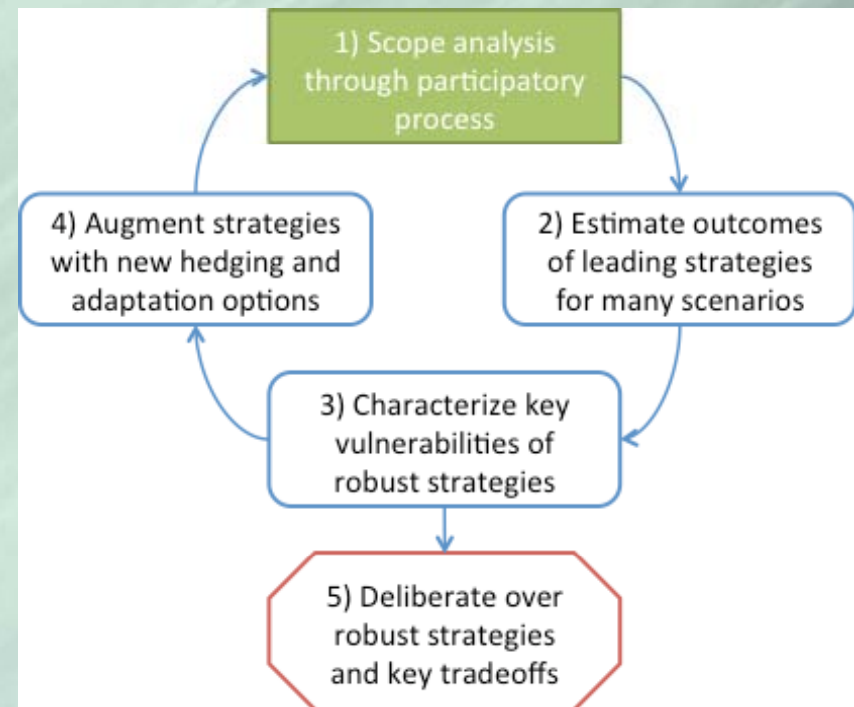
# CWP 2013 Proof-of-Concept Analysis Demonstrates Planning Approach

- 💧 Evaluated current management against climate and land use scenarios using integrated planning model
- 💧 Identified key vulnerabilities for current management
- 💧 Evaluated how additional water management could reduce vulnerabilities
- 💧 Defined key cost and risk tradeoffs



# POC Study Scope Developed in Conjunction with CWP Staff and Stakeholders

- 💧 Used existing data and tools developed for the CWP Update 2009
  - Scenarios
  - WEAP Model
- 💧 Focused on the Central Valley
  - Sacramento River and San Joaquin River
- 💧 Considered conditions through 2050



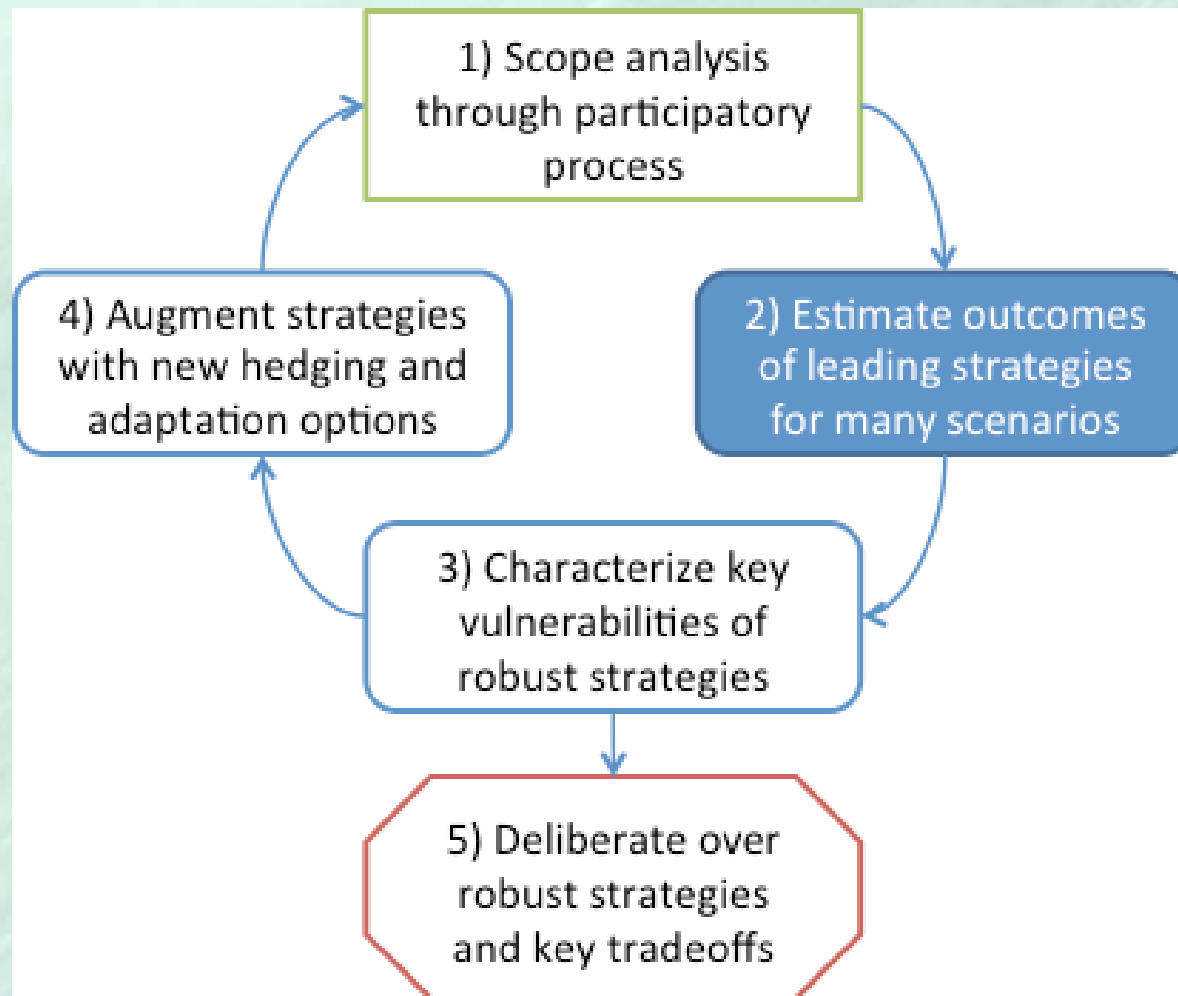


# Summary of Proof-of-Concept Scope

<div>X</div> <b>Uncertain Factors and Scenarios</b>	<div>L</div> <b>Management Strategies and Response Packages</b>
<div> <div> Population Household factors Employment factors Environmental flow requirements </div> <div> Land use / demographic scenarios (3) </div> </div> <div> <div> Climatic conditions </div> <div> Temperature / precipitation scenarios (12) </div> </div>	<div> Current management Additional strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agricultural water use efficiency</li> <li>• Urban water use efficiency</li> <li>• Conjunctive management &amp; groundwater storage</li> <li>• Recycled municipal water</li> </ul> </div>
<div>R</div> <b>Water Management Model</b>	<div>M</div> <b>Performance Metrics</b>
<div> WEAP model of Central Valley <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sacramento River HR</li> <li>• San Joaquin River HR</li> </ul> </div>	<div> Supply Reliability (Urban &amp; Agriculture) Exports to Southern California Environmental flow requirements Costs </div>

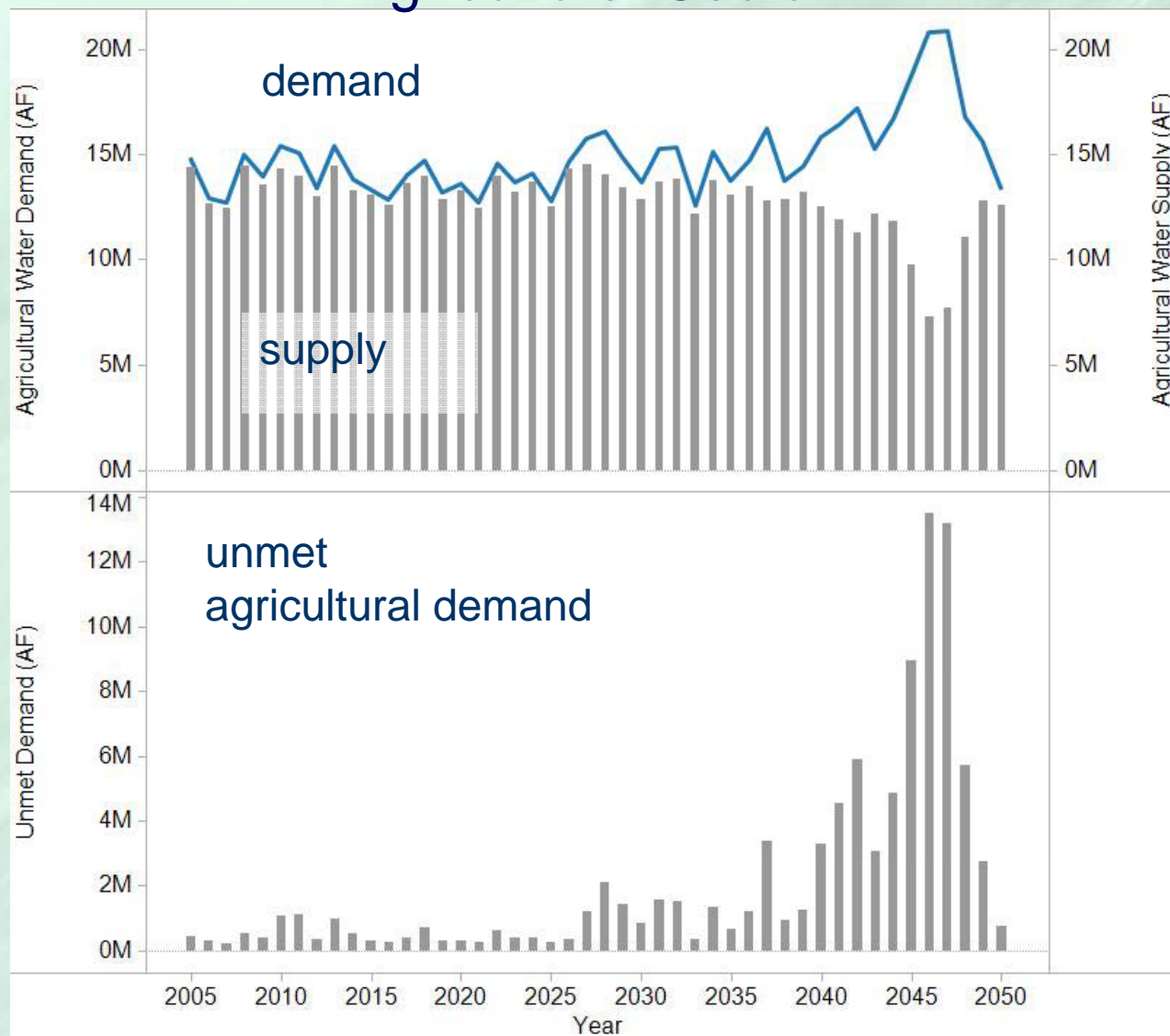


# “How Will the Region’s Current Management Perform Under a Wide-Range of Plausible Future Conditions?”



# WEAP Produces Broad Range of Estimates of Future Conditions

## Agricultural Sector



Strategy:  
Current  
Approach

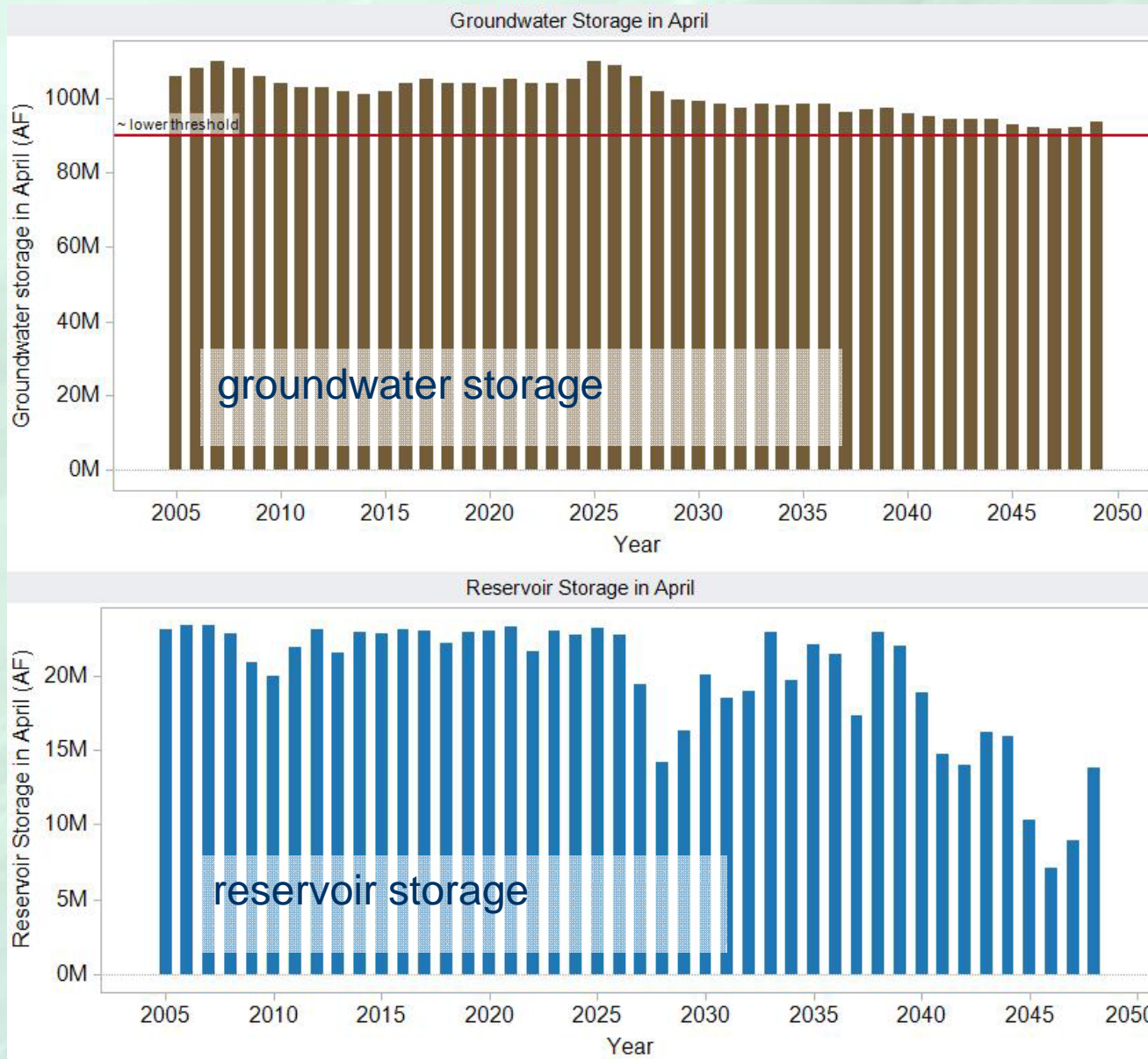
Climate  
Scenario: 1

Land use:  
Current Trends

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# WEAP Produces Broad Range of Estimates of Future Conditions



Strategy:  
Current  
Approach

Climate  
Scenario: 1

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# Performance Metrics Summarize Modeled Outcomes



## 💧 Urban water supply reliability

- % of years in which at least 99% of demand is met



## 💧 Agricultural water supply reliability

- % of years in which at least 95% of agricultural demand is met



## 💧 Environmental performance

- % of months in which all In-stream Flow Requirements (IFRs) are met

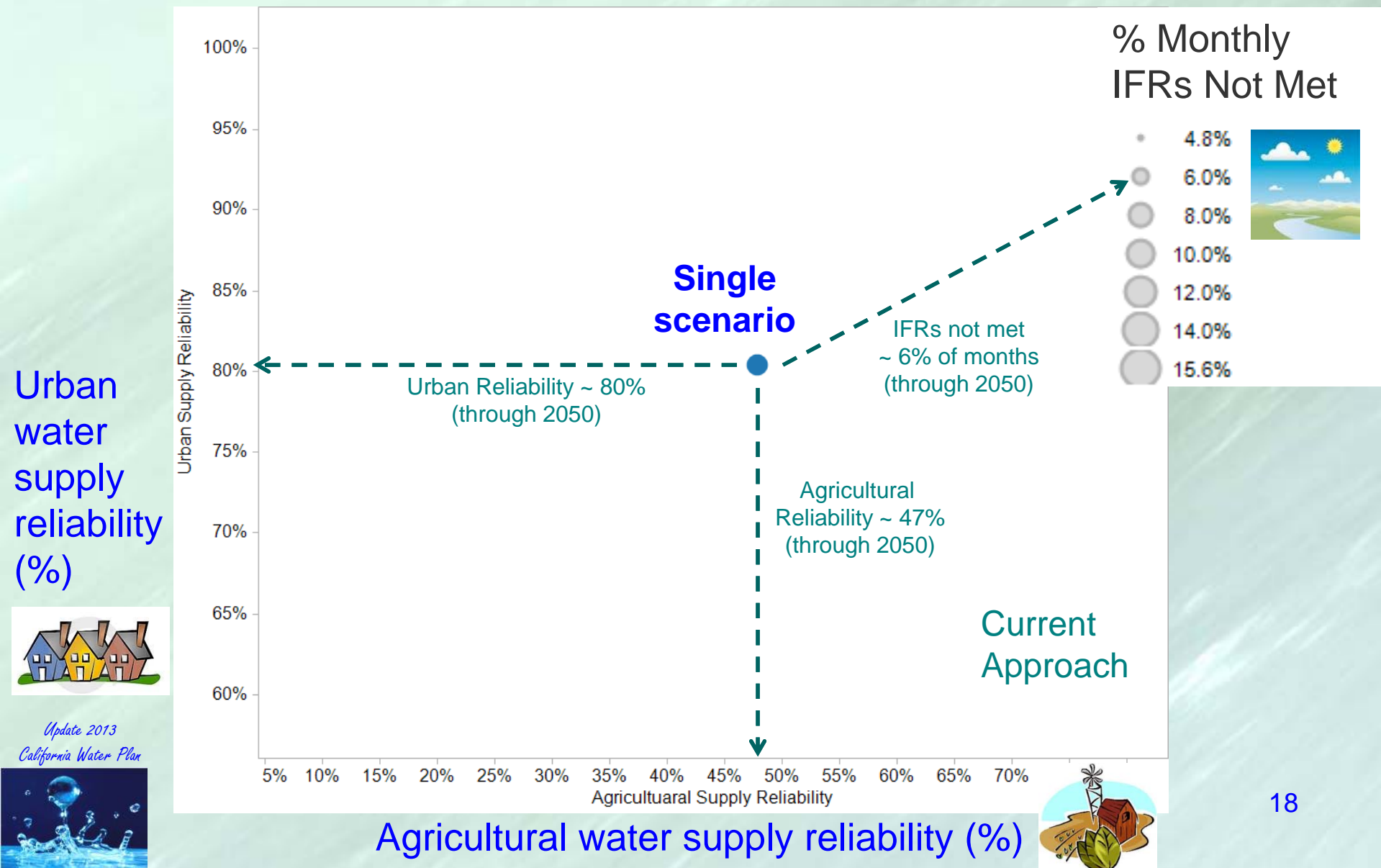


## 💧 Cost of implementing strategies

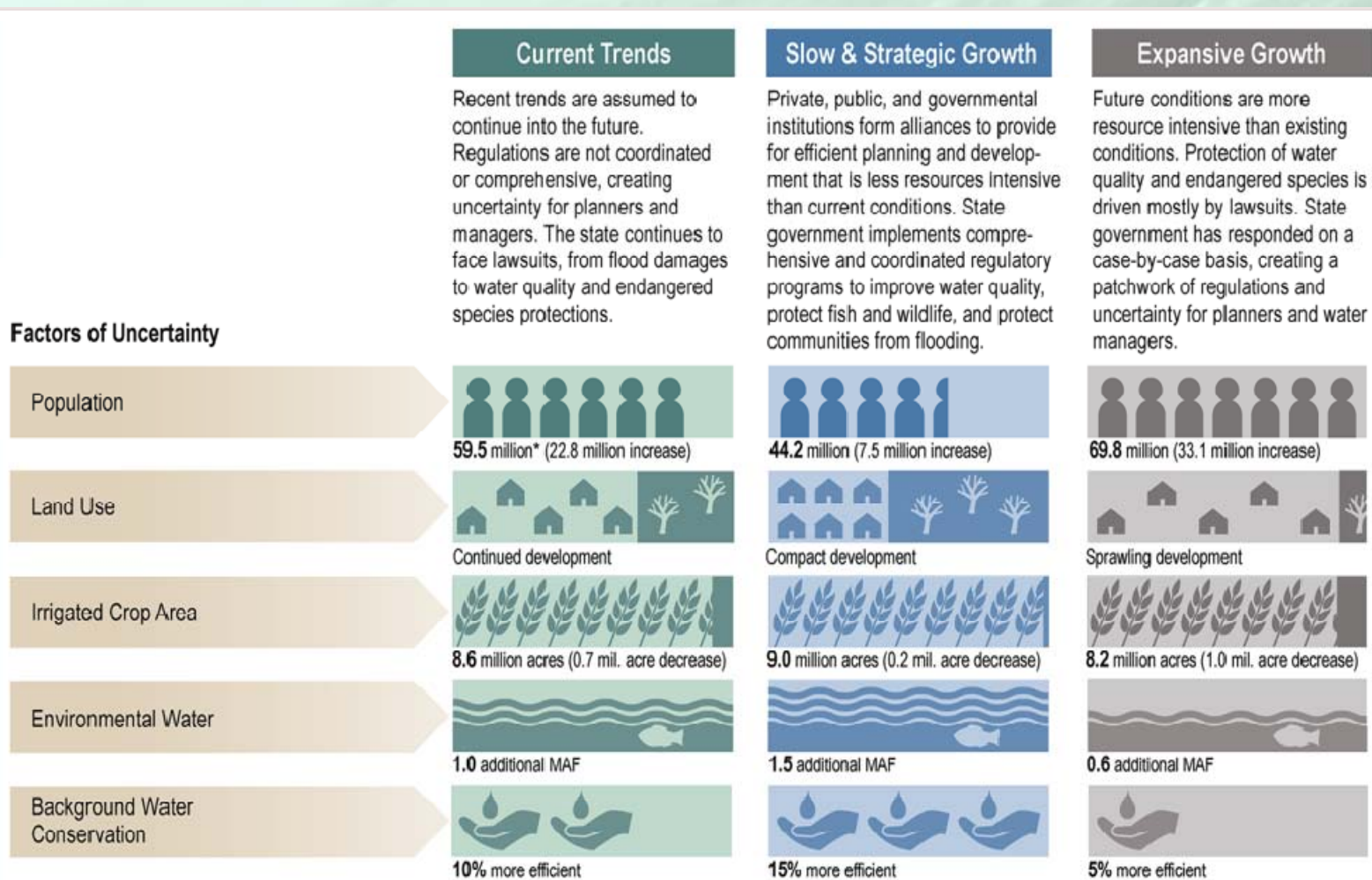
- Notional cost estimates



# Summary Performance of “Current Approach” Under a Single Scenario



# Proof-of-Concept Evaluated Three Demographic and Land Use Scenarios ...

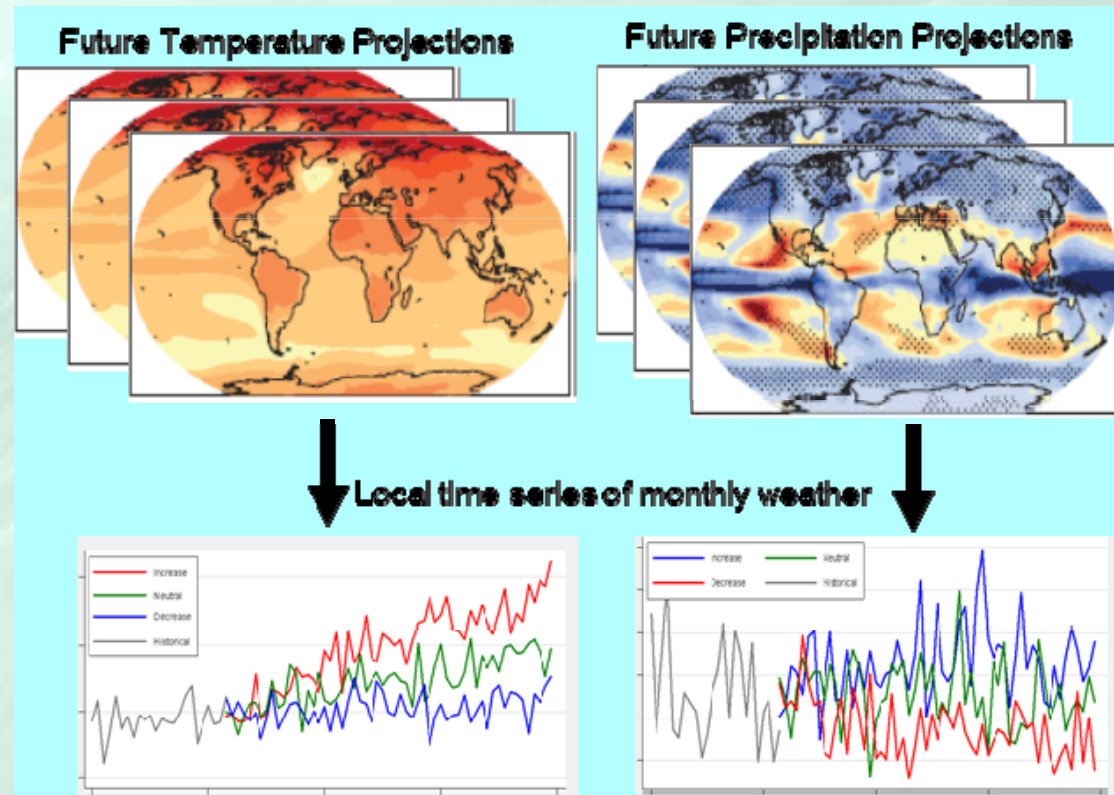


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# ... and 12 Climate Scenarios

## Downscaled AOGCM climate sequences



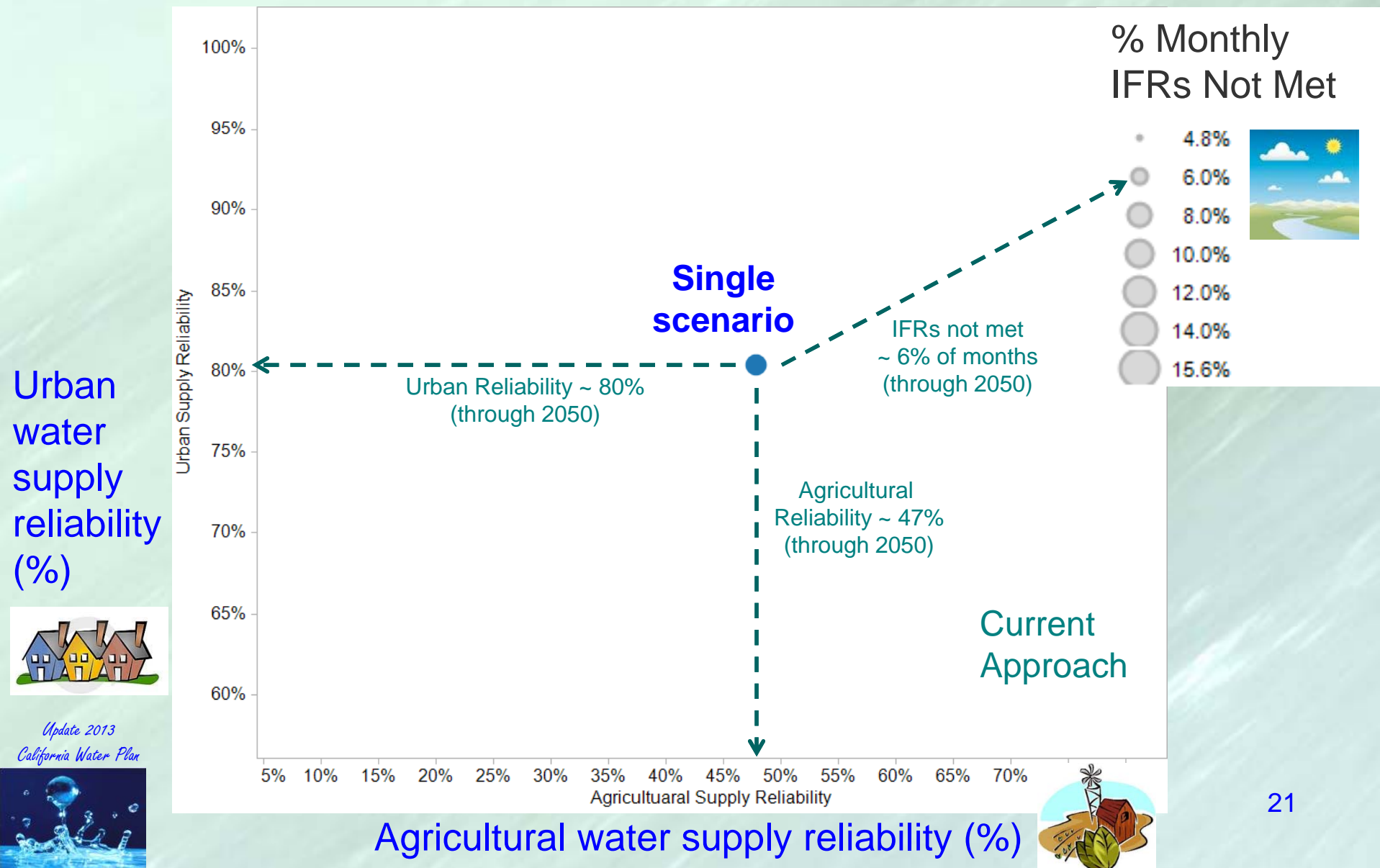
- 6 global climate models
- Two global carbon emissions scenarios

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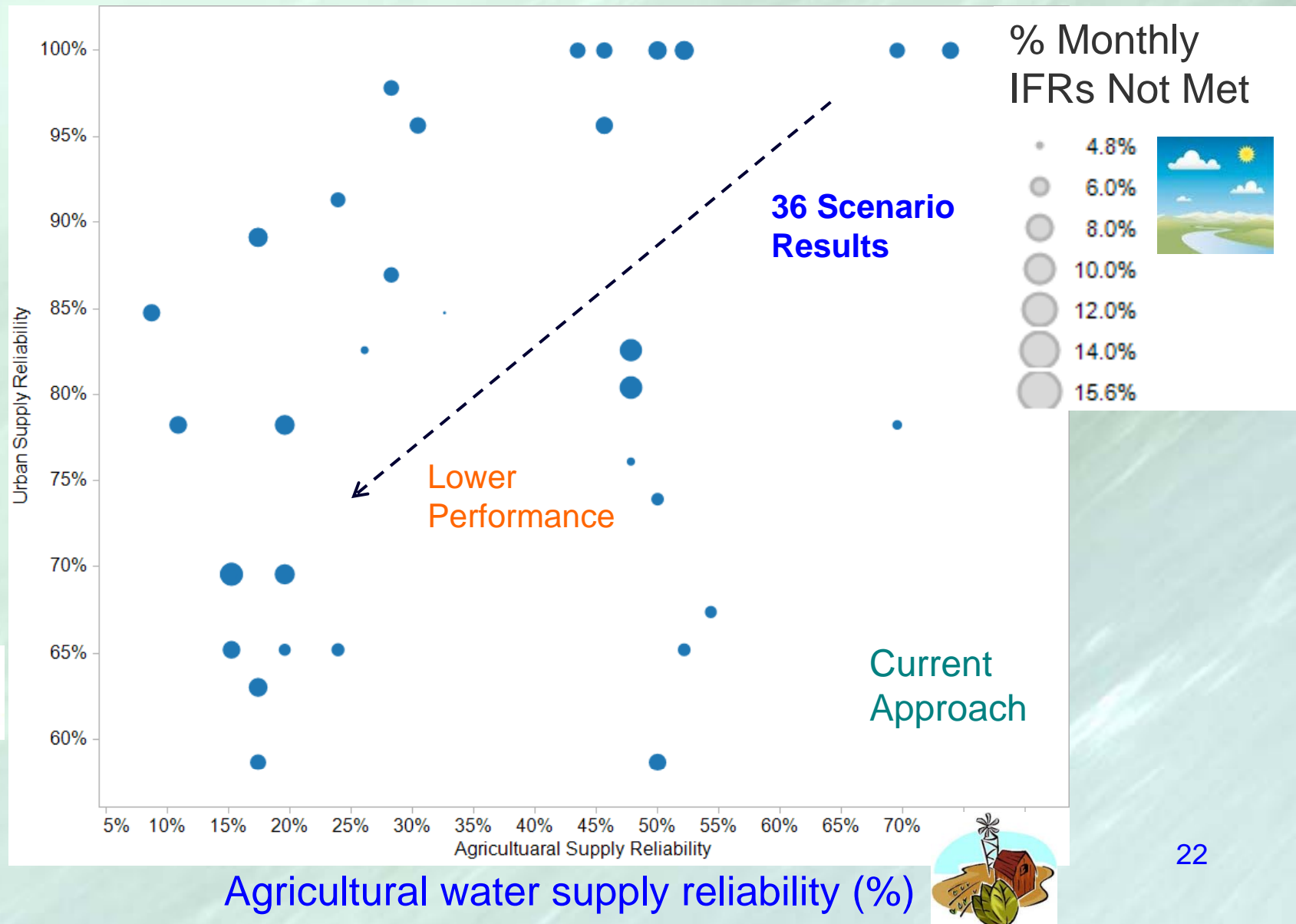




# Performance of “Current Approach” Under a Single Scenario



# Performance of “Current Approach” Under 36 Scenarios



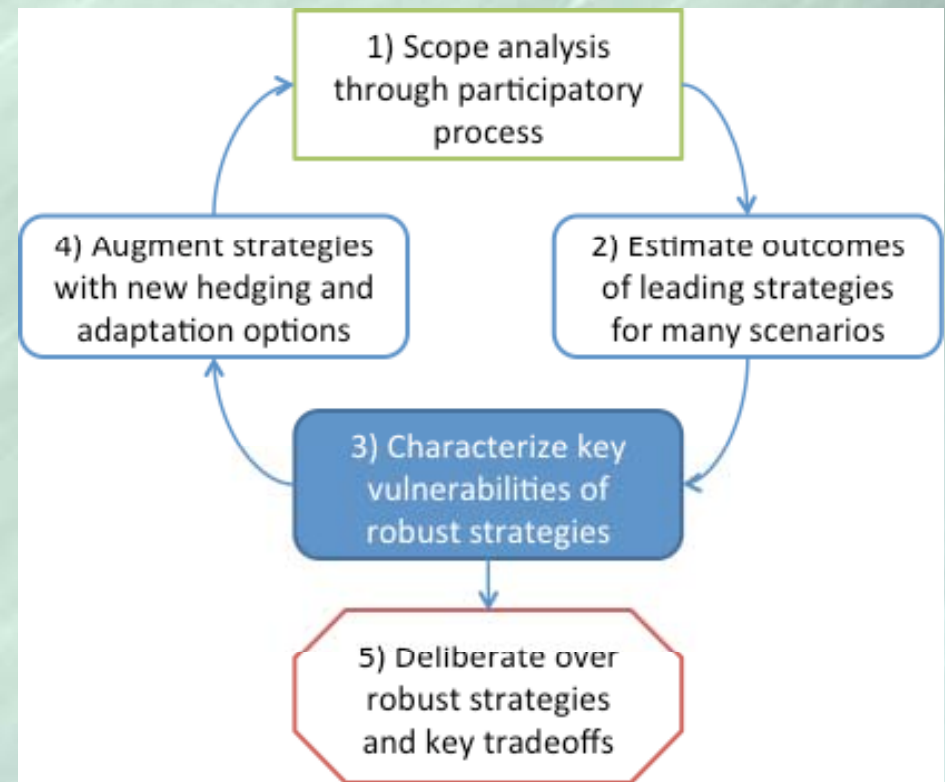
# “Which Future Conditions Cause the Current Plan to Perform Poorly”

## 💧 *Thresholds* define acceptable performance:

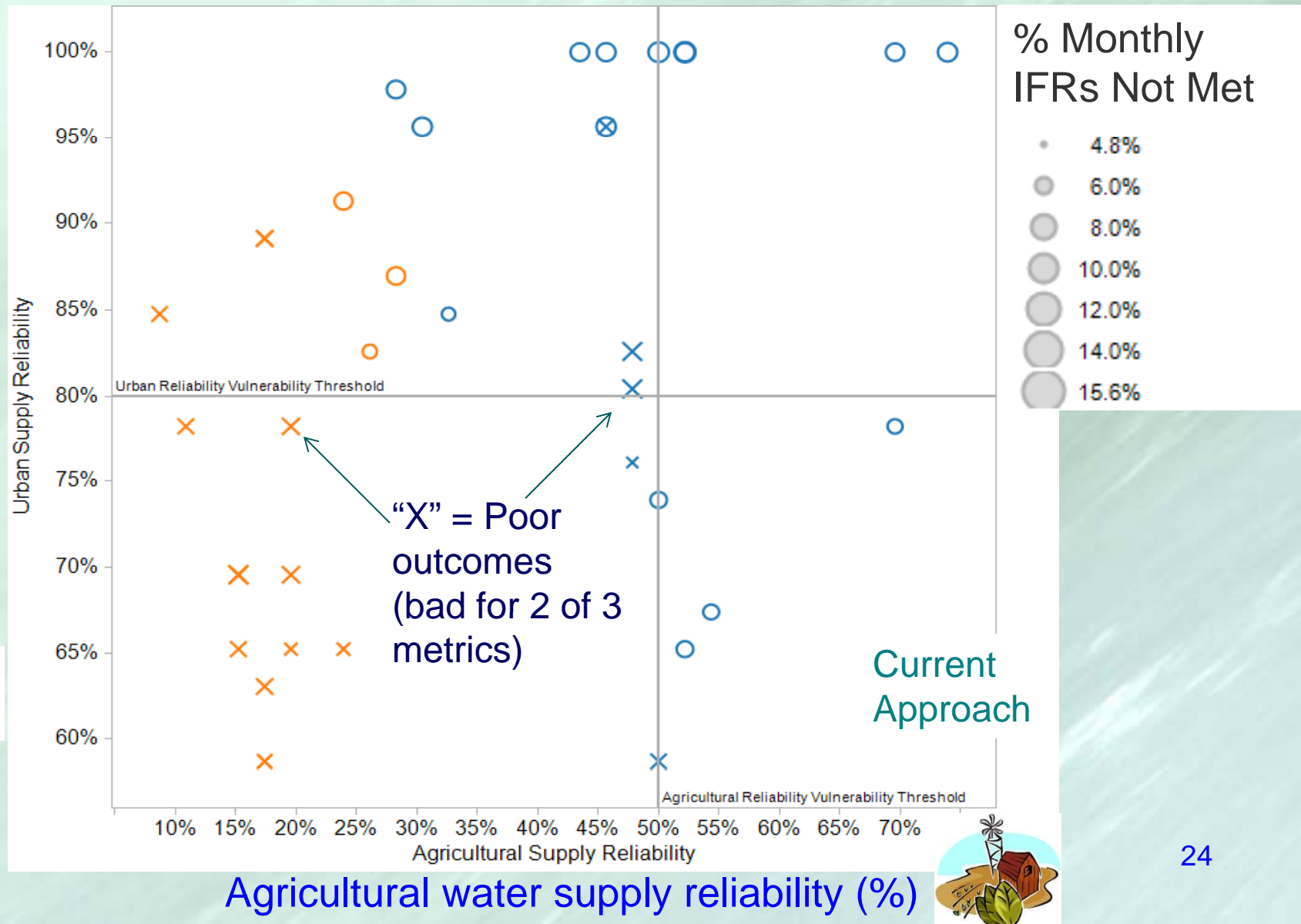
- Urban Supply Reliability: 80% of years in which 99% of demand was met
- Agricultural Supply Reliability: 50% of years in which 95% of demand was met
- In-stream Flow Requirement: Meeting 10% of monthly requirements across all IFRs %

## 💧 *Vulnerable case:*

Unacceptable outcomes under two or more metrics  
– 20 of 39 (51%)

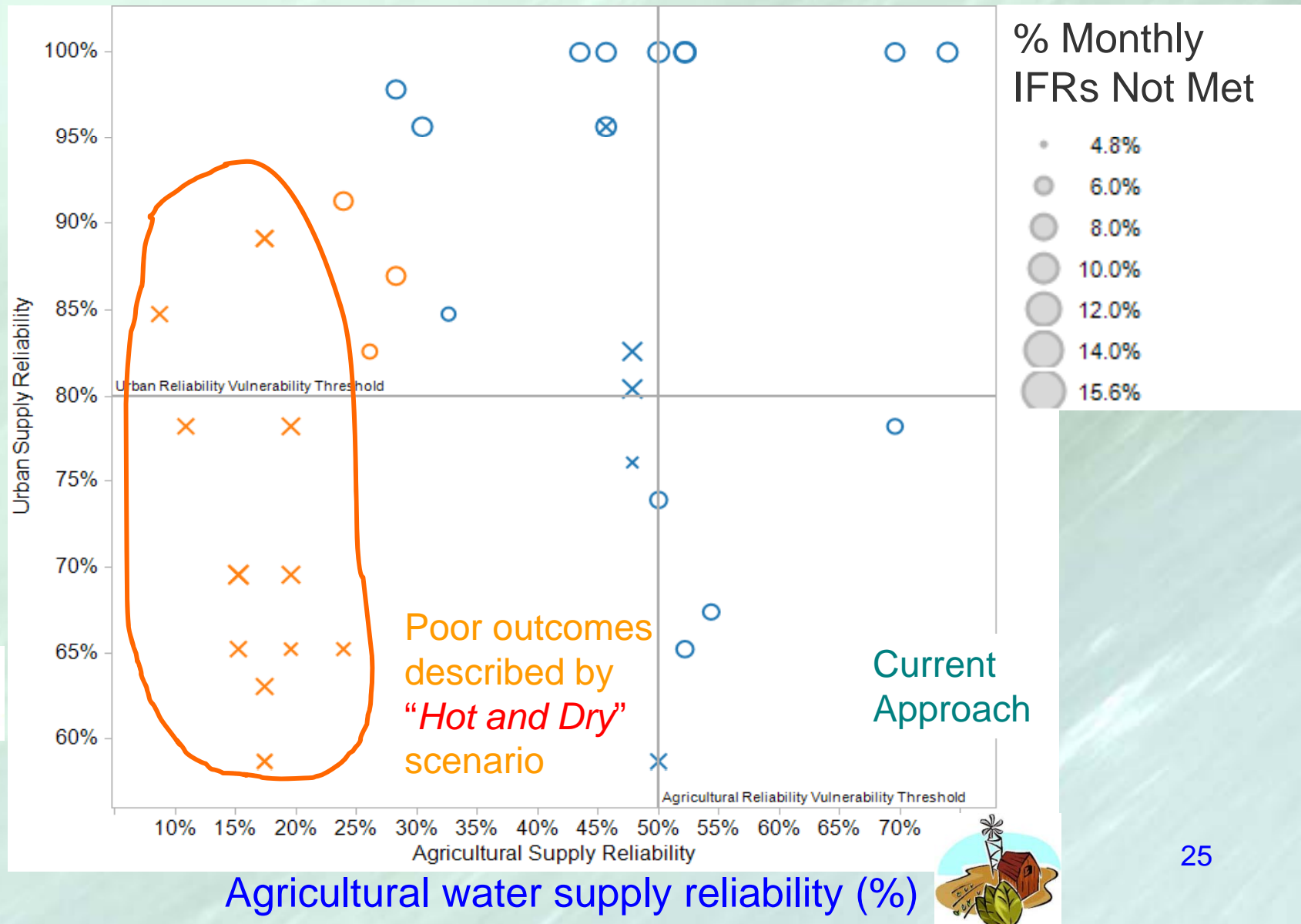


# Analysis Identified and Characterized Poor Outcomes





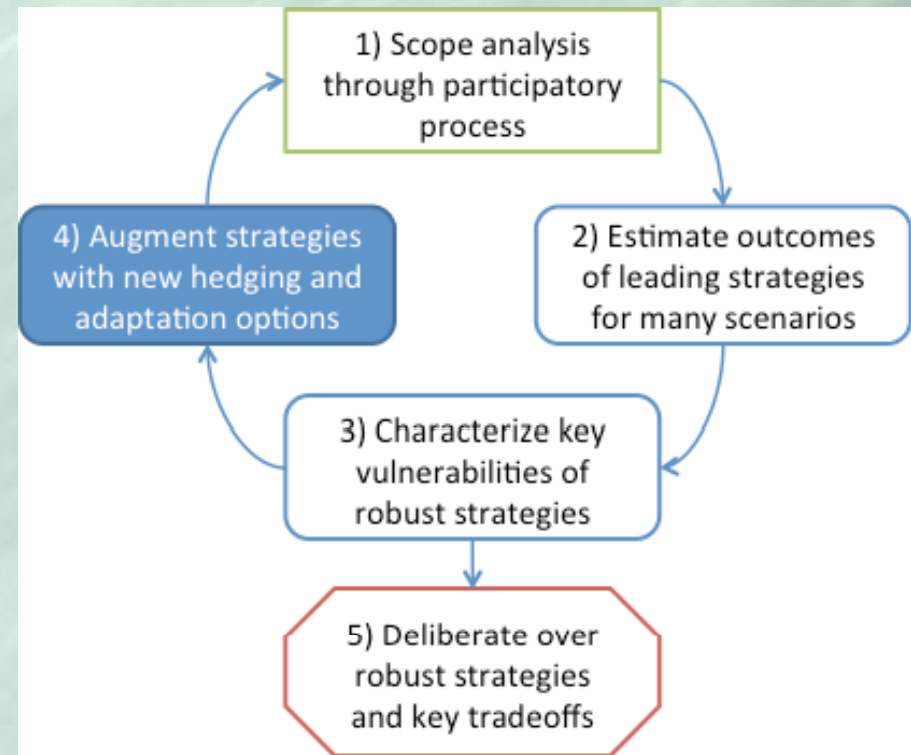
# Climate Trends Define “*Hot and Dry*” Vulnerable Scenario



# “To What Extent Do Additional Management Strategies Reduce Vulnerabilities?”

## 💧 Management Strategies

- Urban water use efficiency
- Agricultural water use efficiency
- Groundwater recharge
- Recycled water use



# Grouped Strategies into Response Packages for Analysis

Strategies							
Urban Water Use Efficiency							
Agricultural Water Use Efficiency							
Groundwater Recharge							
Recycled Water Use							



# Grouped Strategies into Response Packages for Analysis

← Response Packages →

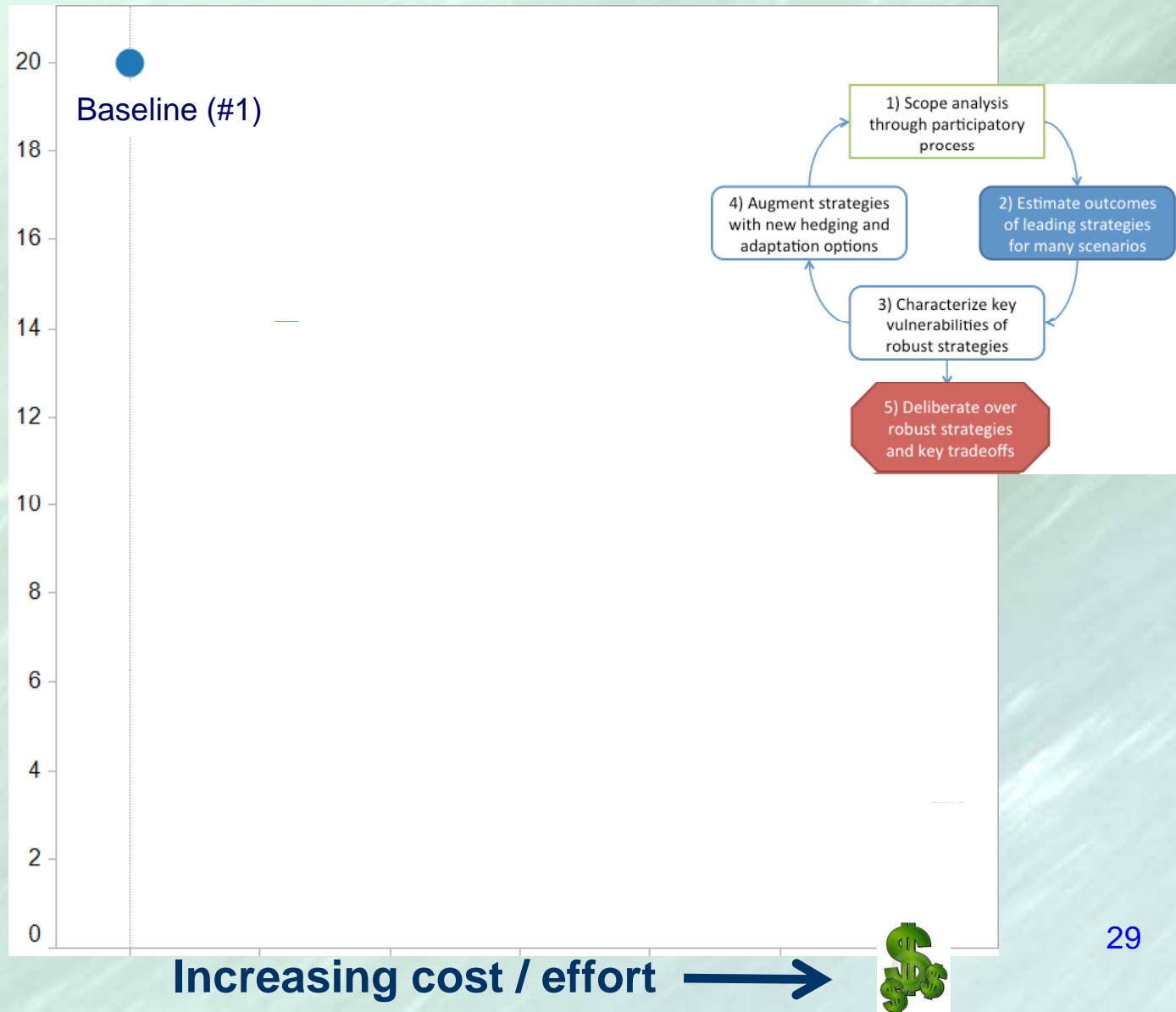
Strategies	Baseline (#1)	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6
Urban Water Use Efficiency	0 (current)	+	+	++	++	++
Agricultural Water Use Efficiency	0	0	0	+	+	+
Groundwater Recharge	0	0	+	0	+	+++
Recycled Water Use	0	+	++	+	++	+++





# Implementing Additional Strategies Reduces Vulnerability to Climate Uncertainty

**Better performance**  
(decreasing number of scenarios in which performance is unsatisfactory)

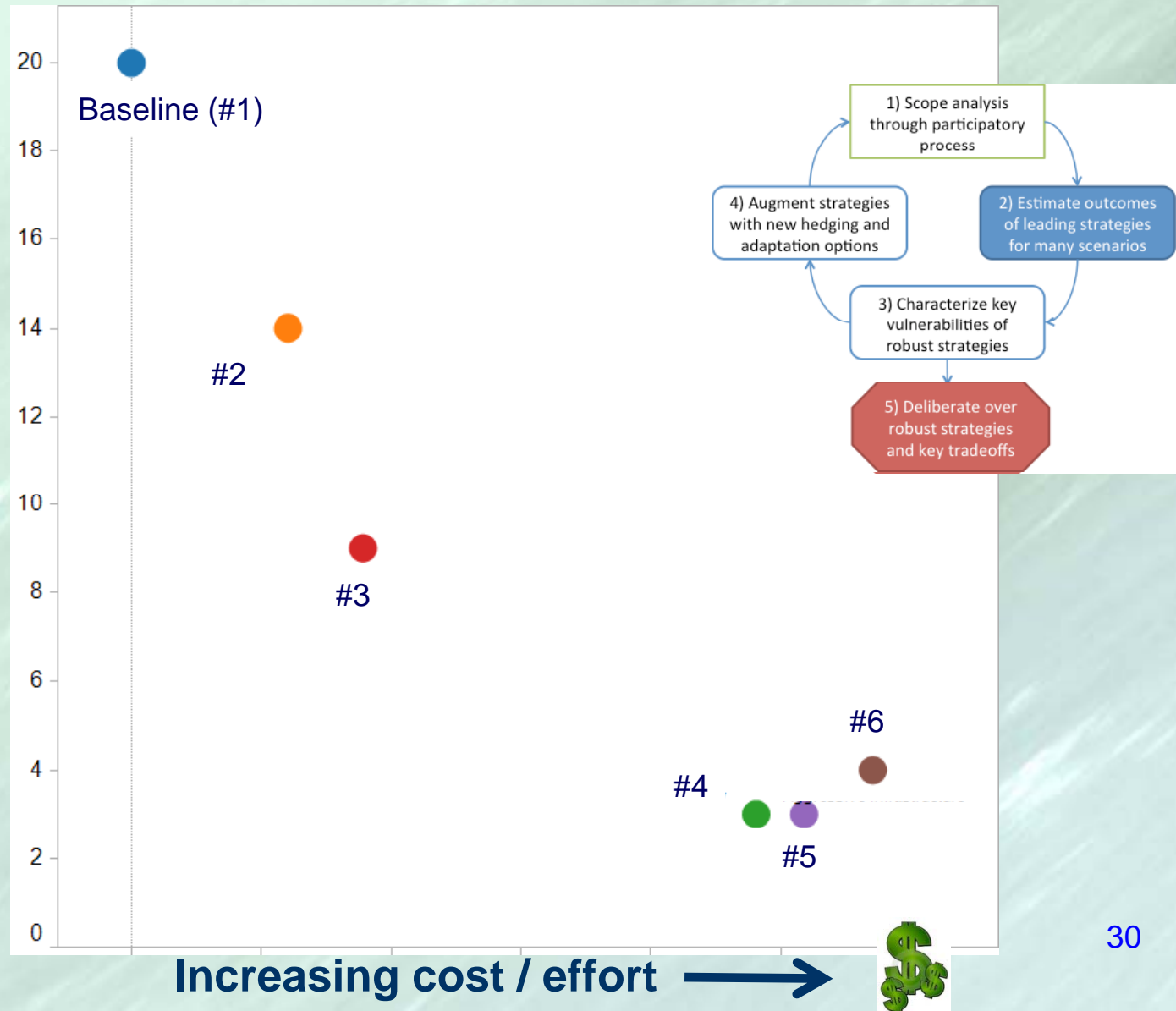


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# Implementing Additional Strategies Reduces Vulnerability to Climate Uncertainty

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# Workshop Discussion Topics

- 💧 Resource management strategies
- 💧 Evaluating performance of resource management strategies



# Update 2013 Will Evaluate and Compare Resource Management Strategies

- 💧 Wide range of resource management strategies available
- 💧 Many strategies can be implemented in different locations, at different times, and to different extents
- 💧 Interactions among strategies can be important
- 💧 Response packages describe groups of strategies for comparison





# Resource Management Strategies (Update 2009)

## Reduce Water Demand

- ◆ Agricultural Water Use Efficiency
- ◆ Urban Water Use Efficiency

## Improve Operational Efficiency & Transfers

- ◆ Conveyance – Delta
- ◆ Conveyance – Regional / Local
- ◆ System Reoperation
- ◆ Water Transfers

## Increase Water Supply

- ◆ Conjunctive Management & Groundwater Storage
- ◆ Desalination –Brackish & Seawater
- ◆ Precipitation Enhancement
- ◆ Recycled Municipal Water
- ◆ Surface Storage – CALFED
- ◆ Surface Storage – Regional / Local

## Improve Flood Management

- ◆ Flood Risk Management

## Improve Water Quality

- ◆ Drinking Water Treatment & Distribution
- ◆ Groundwater / Aquifer Remediation
- ◆ Matching Quality to Use
- ◆ Pollution Prevention
- ◆ Salt & Salinity Management
- ◆ Urban Runoff Management

## Practice Resource Stewardship

- ◆ Agricultural Lands Stewardship
- ◆ Economic Incentives  
(Loans, Grants & Water Pricing)
- ◆ Ecosystem Restoration
- ◆ Forest Management
- ◆ Land Use Planning & Management
- ◆ Recharge Areas Protection
- ◆ Water-Dependent Recreation
- ◆ Watershed Management

Other-- Crop idling, dew vaporization, fog collection, irrigated land retirement, rainfed agriculture, waterbag transport



# Only Some of These Strategies Can Be Modeled With Available Tools

## Reduce Water Demand

- 🔴 Agricultural Water Use Efficiency
- 🔴 Urban Water Use Efficiency

## Improve Operational Efficiency & Transfers

- 🔴 Conveyance – Delta
- 🔴 Conveyance – Regional / Local
- 🔴 System Reoperation
- 🔴 Water Transfers

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# 2013 CWP Analysis Can Consider Subset of Strategies

Strategies					
Urban water use efficiency					
Agricultural water use efficiency					
Groundwater conjunctive use					
Wastewater recycling					
Land use planning					
Surface storage					
Reservoir re-operation					
Environmental flow requirements					

# Response Packages Group Strategies Thematically

← Response Packages →

Strategies	Baseline	Locally Planned	Efficiency Focus	Storage Focus	
Urban water use efficiency	0 (current)	+			
Agricultural water use efficiency	0	+			
Groundwater conjunctive use	0	0			
Wastewater recycling	0	+			
Land use planning	0	?			
Surface storage	0	0			
Reservoir re-operation	0	0			
Environmental flow requirements	0	0			



# Response Packages Group Strategies Thematically

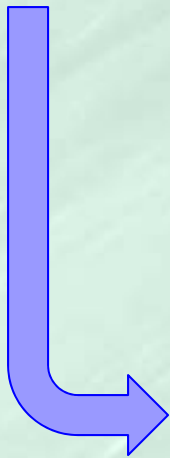
← Response Packages →

Strategies	Baseline	Locally Planned	Efficiency Focus	Storage Focus	
Urban water use efficiency	0 (current)	+	++	+	
Agricultural water use efficiency	0	+	++	+	
Groundwater conjunctive use	0	0	0	++	
Wastewater recycling	0	+	+	+	
Land use planning	0	?	+	0	
Surface storage	0	0	0	++	
Reservoir re-operation	0	0	0	+	
Environmental flow requirements	0	0	+	0	

# Resource Management Questions

- What are your top five resource management strategies that could be implemented in your region between now and 2050?

- What themes would describe coherent and relevant response packages for your region?



← Response Packages →					
Strategies	Baseline	Locally Planned	Efficiency Focus	Storage Focus	
Urban water use efficiency	O (current)	+	++	+	
Agricultural water use efficiency	O	+	++	+	
Groundwater conjunctive use	O	O	O	++	
Wastewater recycling	O	+	+	+	
Land use planning	O	?	+	O	
Surface storage	O	O	O	++	
Reservoir re-operation	O	O	O	+	
Environmental flow requirements	O	O	+	O	

74



# Other Resource Management Questions

- What new environmental water (for instream flows and habitat restoration beyond existing requirements) should we consider in Update 2013?
- What policies could influence future land use and how?



# Performance Measures Summarize the Effects of Different Response Packages

## Measures should relate to Update 2013 Objectives

- ◆ Water Supply & Supply Reliability
- ◆ Energy Benefits
- ◆ Flood Impact Reduction
- ◆ Food Security
- ◆ Groundwater Overdraft Reduction
- ◆ Environmental Benefits
- ◆ Drought Preparedness
- ◆ Water Quality
- ◆ Operational Flexibility and Efficiency
- ◆ Recreational Opportunity

Models and available data may limit which measures can be used





# Discussion Questions

- ◆ Which performance measures are essential to make investment decision about different resource management strategies?
- ◆ Which temporal scales (daily, monthly, annual, etc.) and planning horizon (2020, 2050, 2100) are most useful to your decisions about investing in resource management strategies?
- ◆ Which spatial scales (water district, IRWM region, hydrologic region, tribal, statewide) are most useful to your decisions about investing in resource management strategies?



# Additional Questions: Future Land Use Changes

- 💧 What significant changes in land use development should we consider for Update 2013?
  - For example, how will residential densities change in the future?
- 💧 In addition to population growth, are there other significant factors affecting conversion of agricultural land to other uses?
  - For example, habitat restoration or land retirement



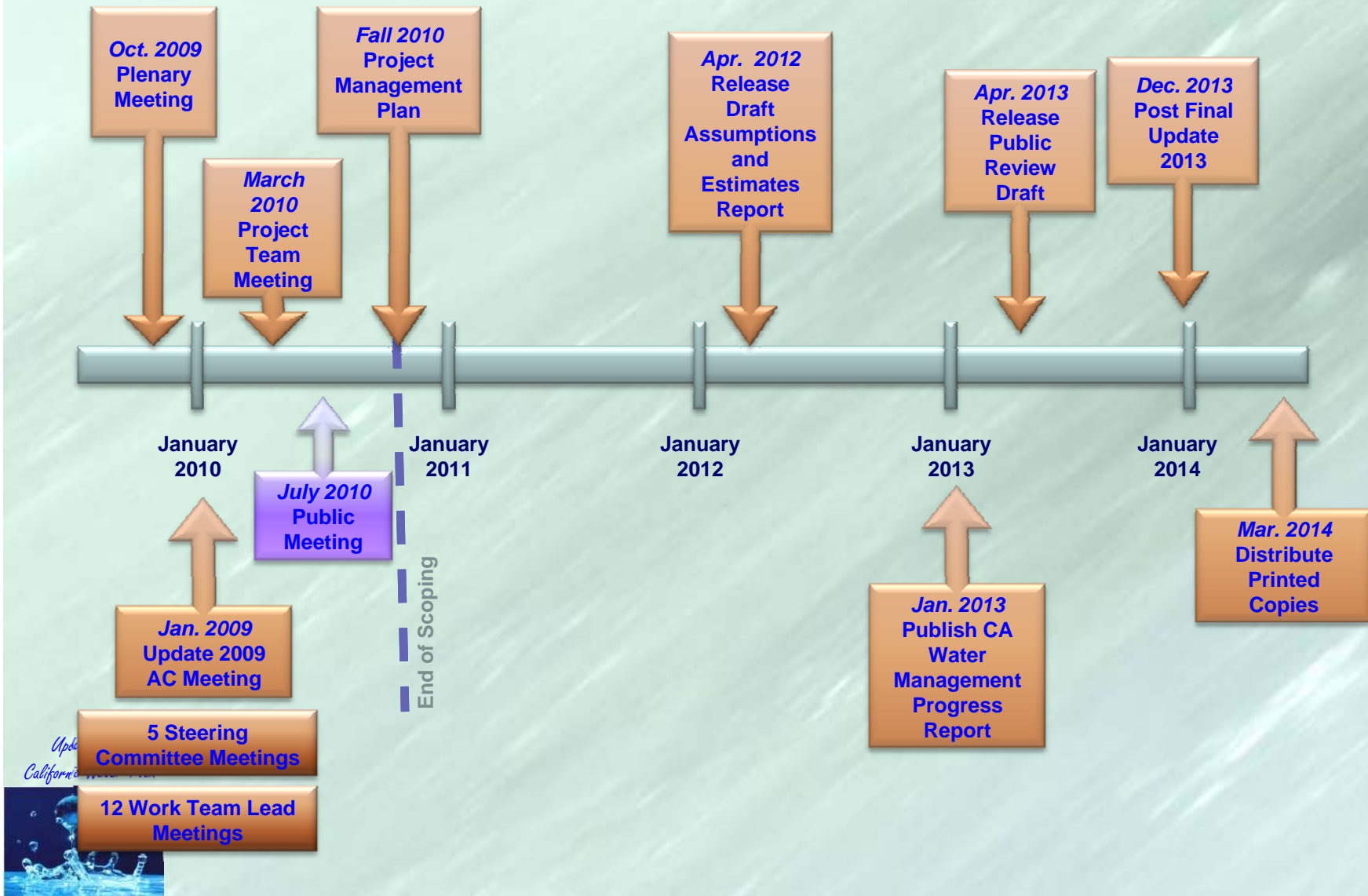
# Next Steps

- ◆ Incorporate workshop input into the Update 2013 assumptions and analytical approach to evaluate future water management conditions in California.
- ◆ Identify IRWM Regional Water Management Groups (find volunteers) in Sacramento River, San Joaquin River, and Tulare Lake Hydrologic Regions to identify regional resource management strategies (response packages)
- ◆ Conduct WEAP simulations using an iterative process with Regional Water Management Groups.
- ◆ Present interim results to other Update 2013 advisory groups (State Agency Steering Committee, Public Advisory Committee, Statewide Water Analysis Network, Tribal Advisory Committee)



# Water Plan Update 2013

## *Timeline and Major Deliverables*





# Contact Information

**Rich Juricich, DWR**

- 💧 [juricich@water.ca.gov](mailto:juricich@water.ca.gov)
- 💧 (916) 651-9225

**David Groves,  
RAND Corporation**

- 💧 [groves@rand.org](mailto:groves@rand.org)
- 💧 (510) 868-1819

**David Purkey,  
Stockholm Environment  
Institute**

- 💧 [dpurkey@sei-us.org](mailto:dpurkey@sei-us.org)
- 💧 (530) 753-3035 x1

**SWAN - <http://www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/swan>**



# BACKUP SLIDES



# Planning Approach Has Been Applied at the Regional and Local Scales in California

- 💧 *Inland Empire Utilities Agency: Preparing for an Uncertain Future* (NSF: 2006-2008)
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# RAND Study\* Developed Methodology to Identify Water Management Strategies Robust to the Uncertain Future

*How should the Inland Empire Utilities Agency augment its Urban Water Management Plan to prepare for climate change?*

1. Evaluated UWMP under many future scenarios
2. Identified key vulnerabilities of the UWMP
3. Analyzed additional strategies that could mitigate these vulnerabilities
4. Explored key tradeoffs among strategies



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\* Funding provided by the National Science Foundation

# Research Team Worked Collaboratively with Water Managers and Stakeholders

## 💧 Held four workshops

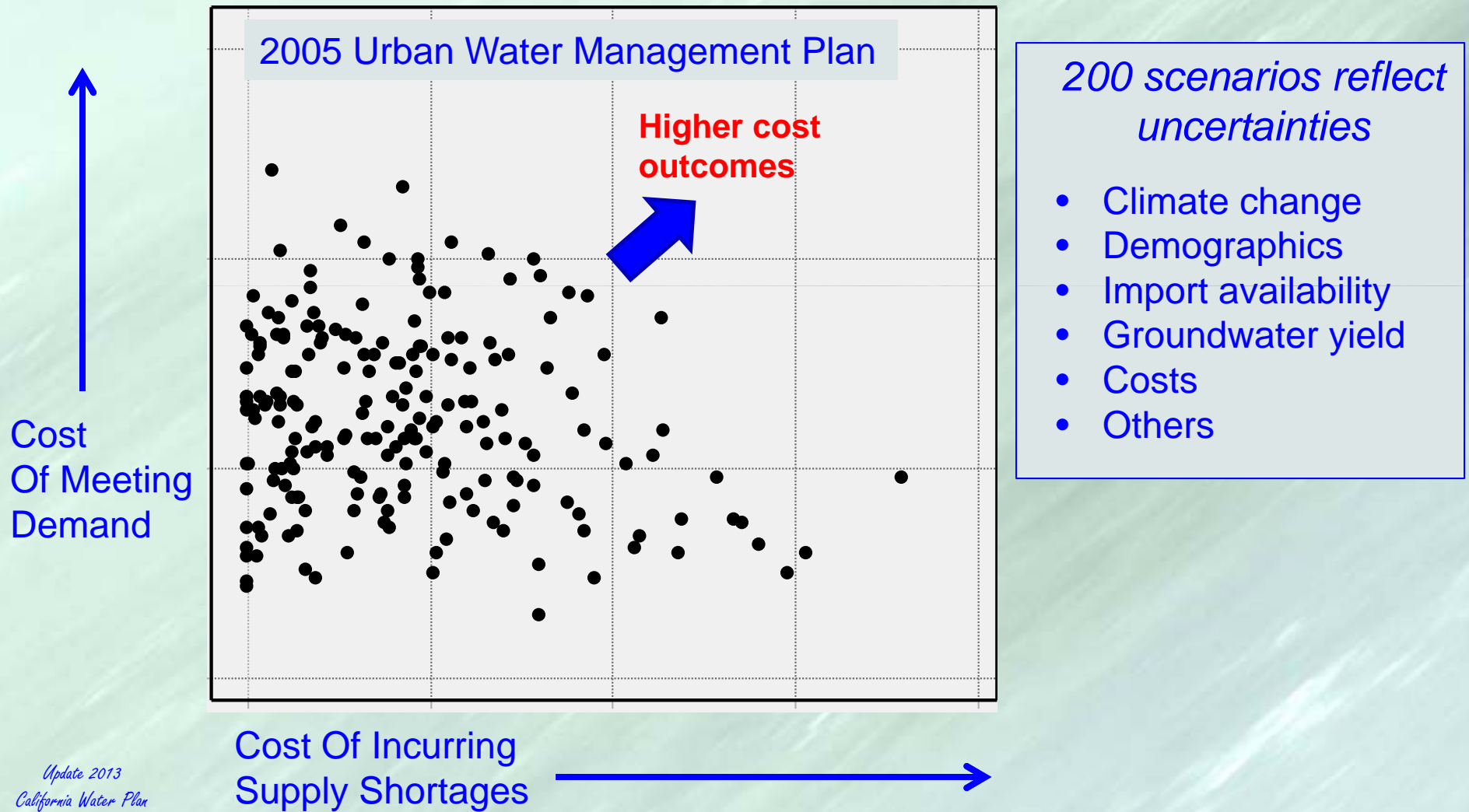
- Discussed future challenges, potential adaptations, and performance metrics
- Presented and evaluated different approaches for incorporating uncertainty
  - Simple scenarios
  - Probabilistic assessment
  - Robust decision methods

## 💧 Developed WEAP model of IEUA system

## 💧 Documented analysis and workshops in two reports



# 1) Performance of Current Plan Would Vary Widely Under Plausible Scenarios

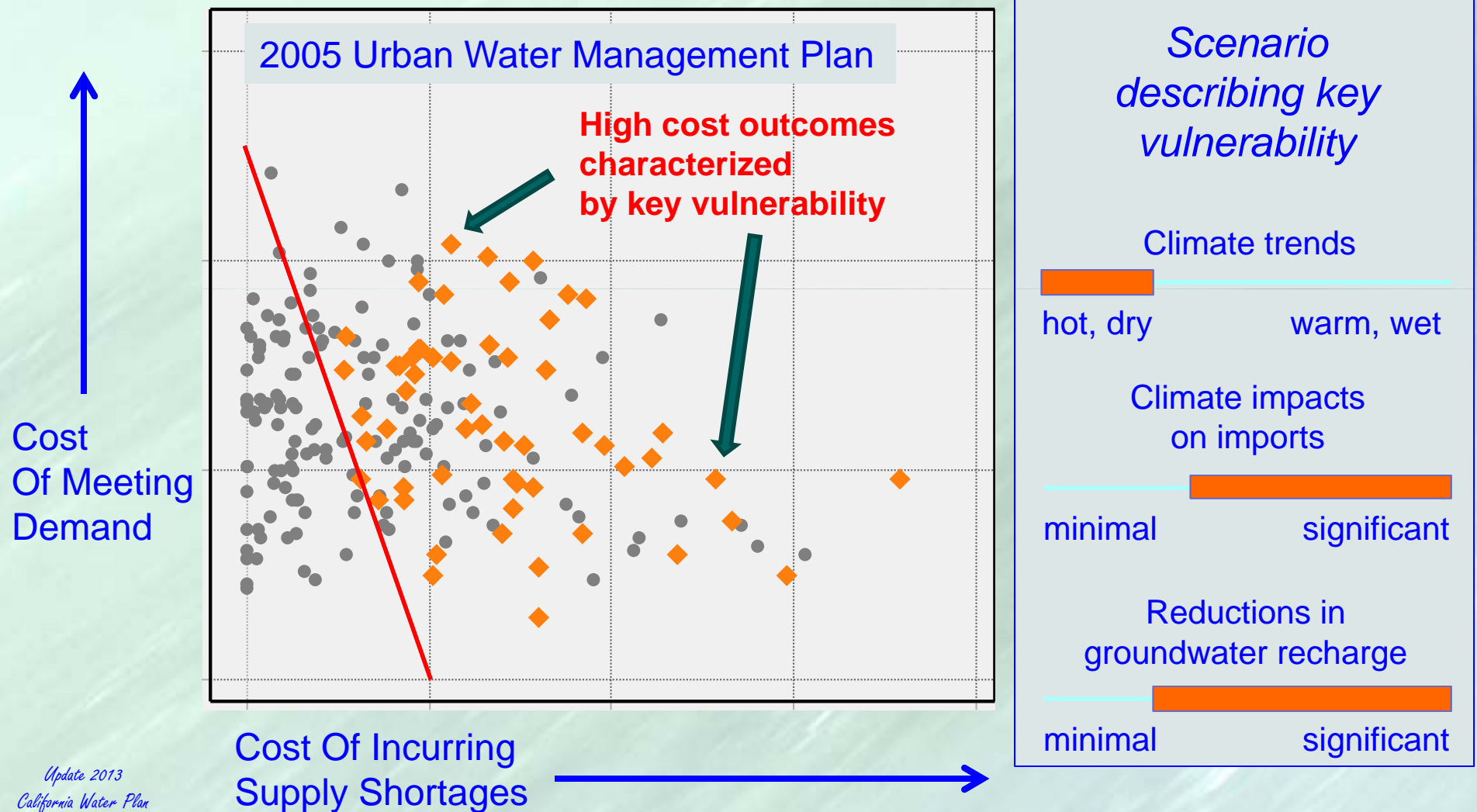


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## 2) Plan Was Vulnerable to Warm and Dry Climates; Declines in Groundwater Recharge and Import Availability



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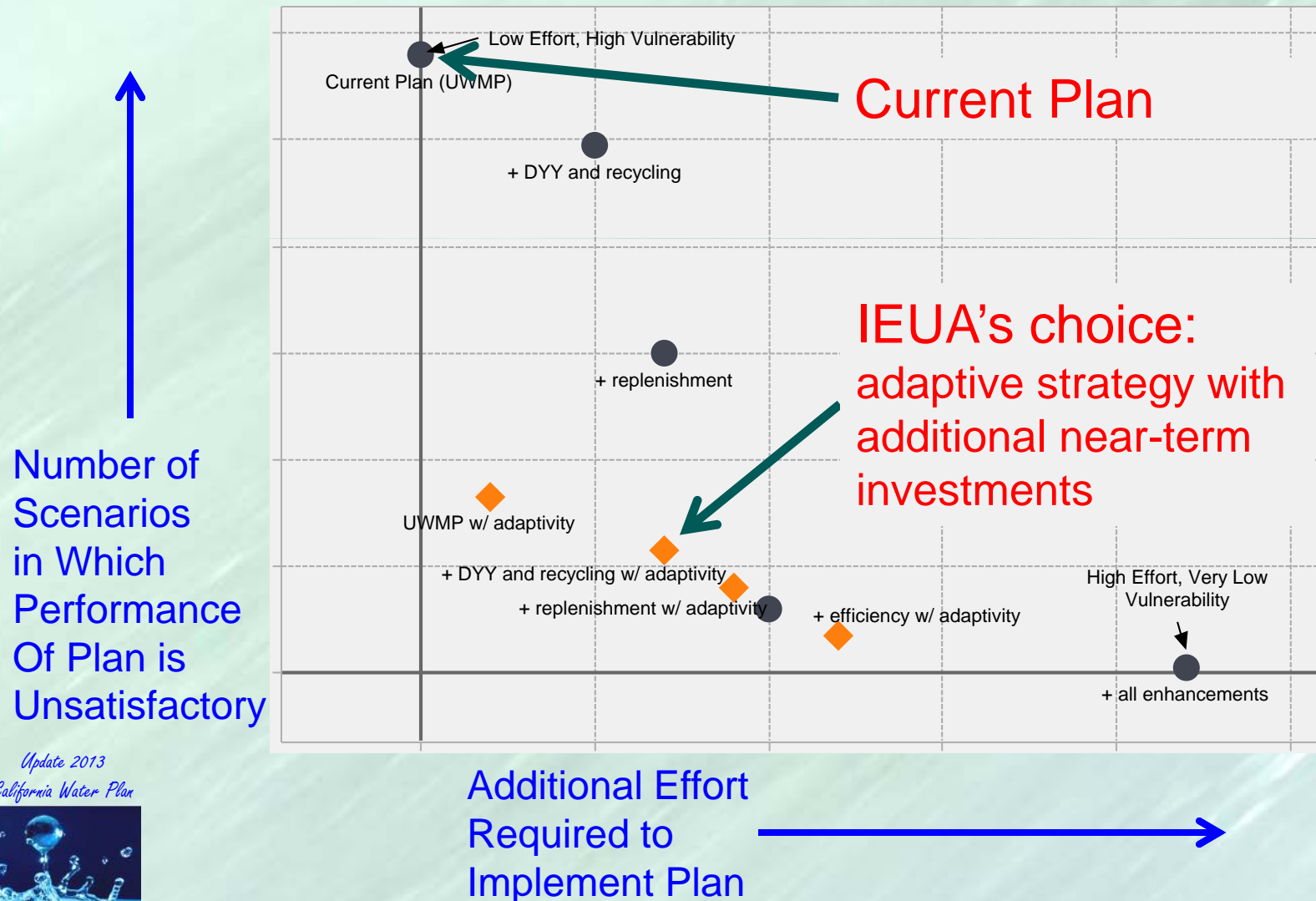


### 3) Evaluated Additional Resource Management Strategies To Mitigate Key Vulnerability

- 💧 Increased efficiency
- 💧 Accelerated groundwater banking
- 💧 Accelerated water recycling
- 💧 Stormwater capture and banking
  
- 💧 “Adaptive strategies” that increase investment only when needed



## 4) Additional Strategies Would Reduce High-Cost Outcomes at Additional Effort



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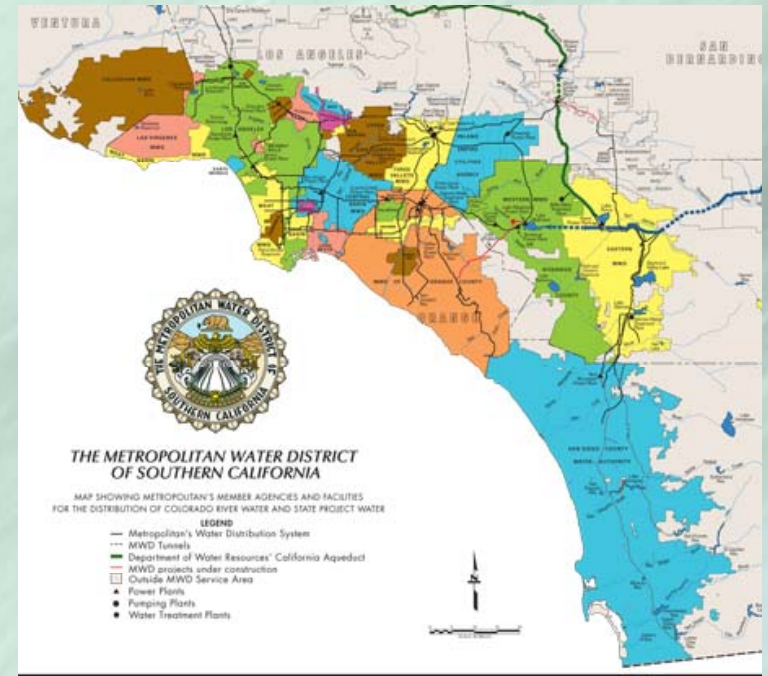
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# Vulnerability Assessment of Metropolitan's 2010 Integrated Resource Plan

- The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California:
  - Serves 26 member agencies.
  - Has a mission that calls for it to *“provide its service area with adequate and reliable supplies of high-quality water to meet present and future needs in an environmentally and economically responsible way”*
- Metropolitan's 2010 Integrated Resources Plan
  - Describes a 25 year investment and policy plan
  - Calls explicitly for 10% buffer and adaptive management to address uncertainty





# Analysis\* Evaluated Robustness of 2010 Integrated Resources Plan to Range of Future Scenarios

Scenario factors (X)	Management (L)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Temperature and precipitation</li><li>• Regional patterns of development, demand for water</li><li>• Yields from local resources</li><li>• Timeliness of IRP project implementation</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2010 Integrated Resources Plan Update</li></ul>
Relationships (R)	Performance metrics (M)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• IRPsim</li><li>• Low-resolution model Colorado River supply</li><li>• WEAP model of State Water Project imports</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Net water balance</li><li>• Storage</li><li>• Cost</li><li>• <i>Environmental impact</i></li></ul>

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**These uncertainties and measures emerged from discussions with Metropolitan's stakeholders and staff**

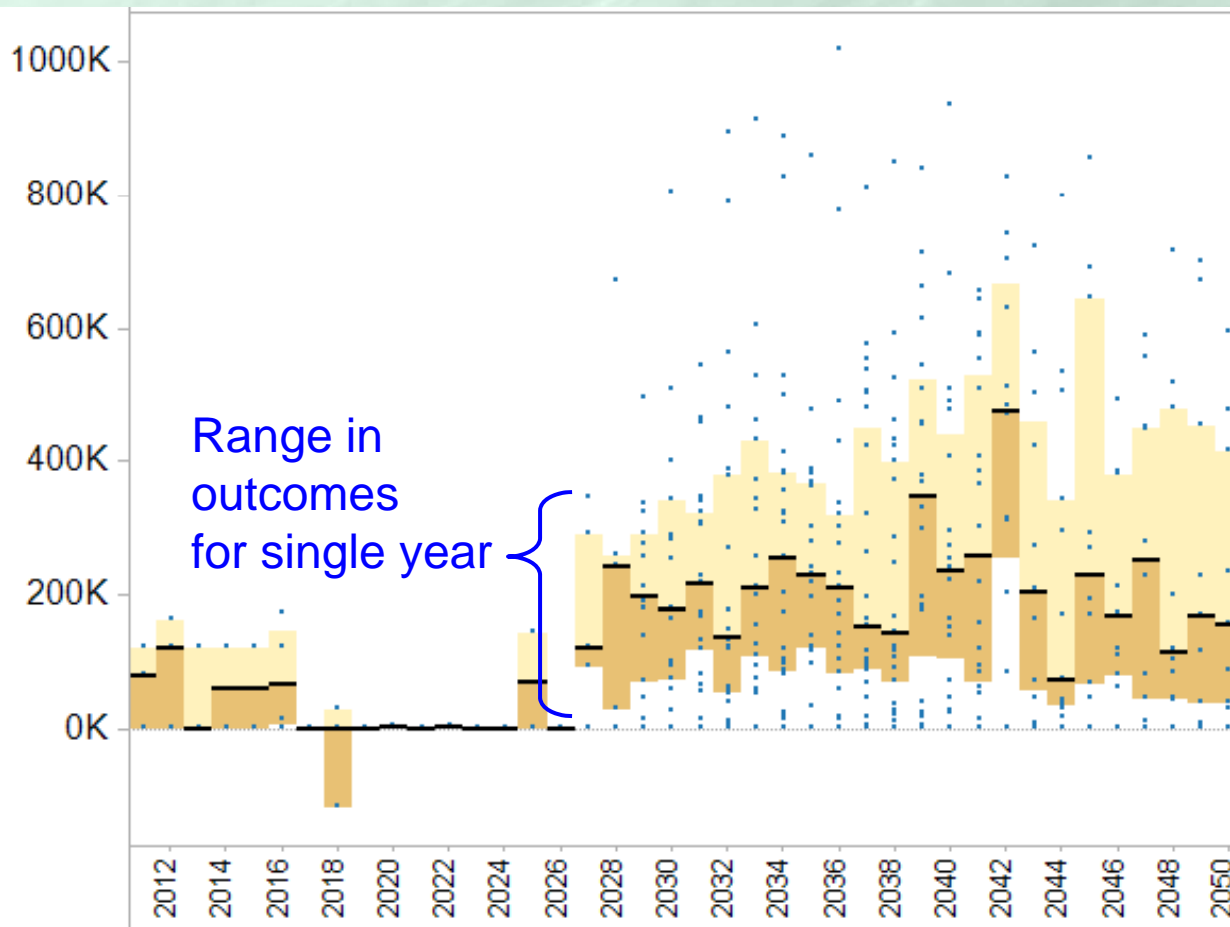
\* Implemented by RAND / Metropolitan research team

# Simulation Models Evaluated Integrated Resource Plan For Individual Scenarios

One case: Single population growth and climate scenario

Net Water  
Balance (AF)

Range in  
outcomes  
for single year



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# Analysis Considered Many Scenario Factors

Climate	6 GCMs x 2 emissions scenarios
Demand	4 cases: 1) Balanced growth, 2) IRP sales model, 3) peri-urban growth, 4) high growth
Delta	3 cases: 1) Full Delta supply, 2) 90% Delta supply, 3) No improvement in Delta supply
Yield	26 cases for project yields <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Groundwater yields (80% - 120%)</li> <li>• Recycling yield (80% - 120%)</li> <li>• Conservation savings per expenditure (80%-120%)</li> </ul>
Implementation	16 cases for project implementation delays <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desalination delays (0 to 10 years)</li> <li>• Recycling (0 to 10 years)</li> <li>• Conservation (10 to 20 years)</li> <li>• State Water Project (0 to 30 years)</li> <li>• Colorado River allocations (0 to 30 years)</li> </ul>

Uncertainties  
(X)

Policy Levers  
(L)

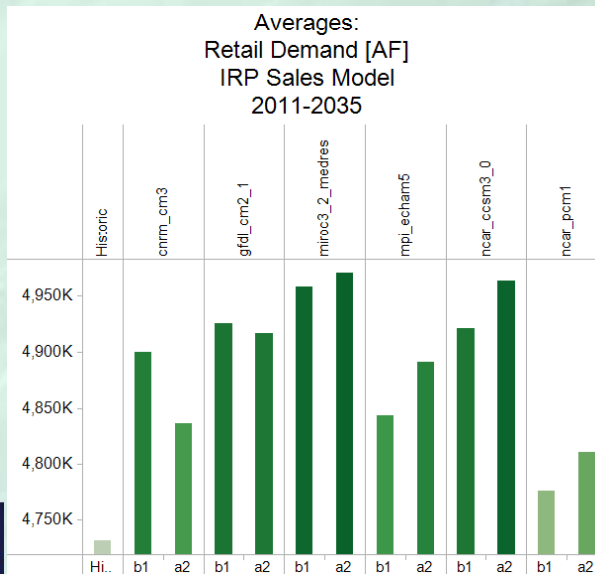
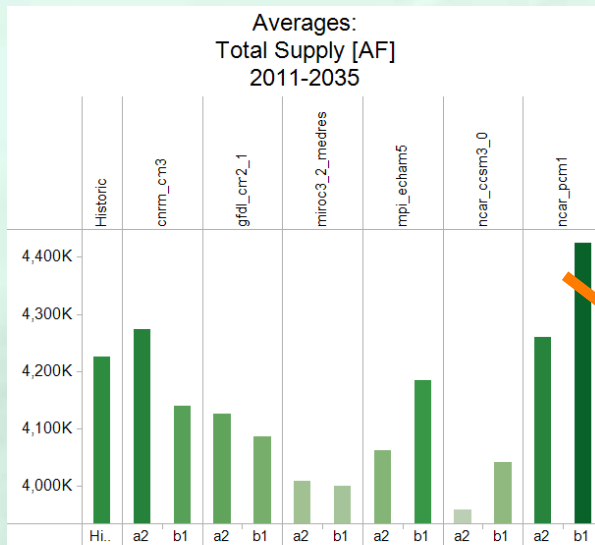
Relationships  
(R)

Measures (M)

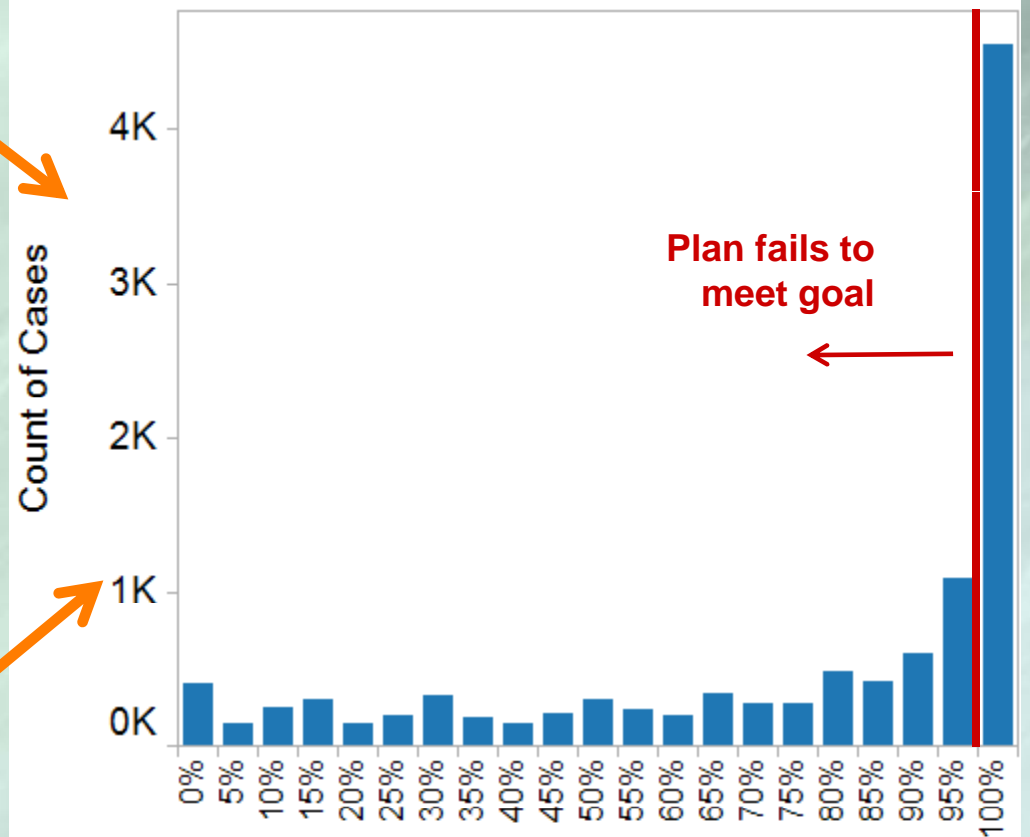
**Consider performance of  
Metropolitan's IRP in 10,368 cases**



# IRP Shows Significant Variation in Performance Across The Scenarios



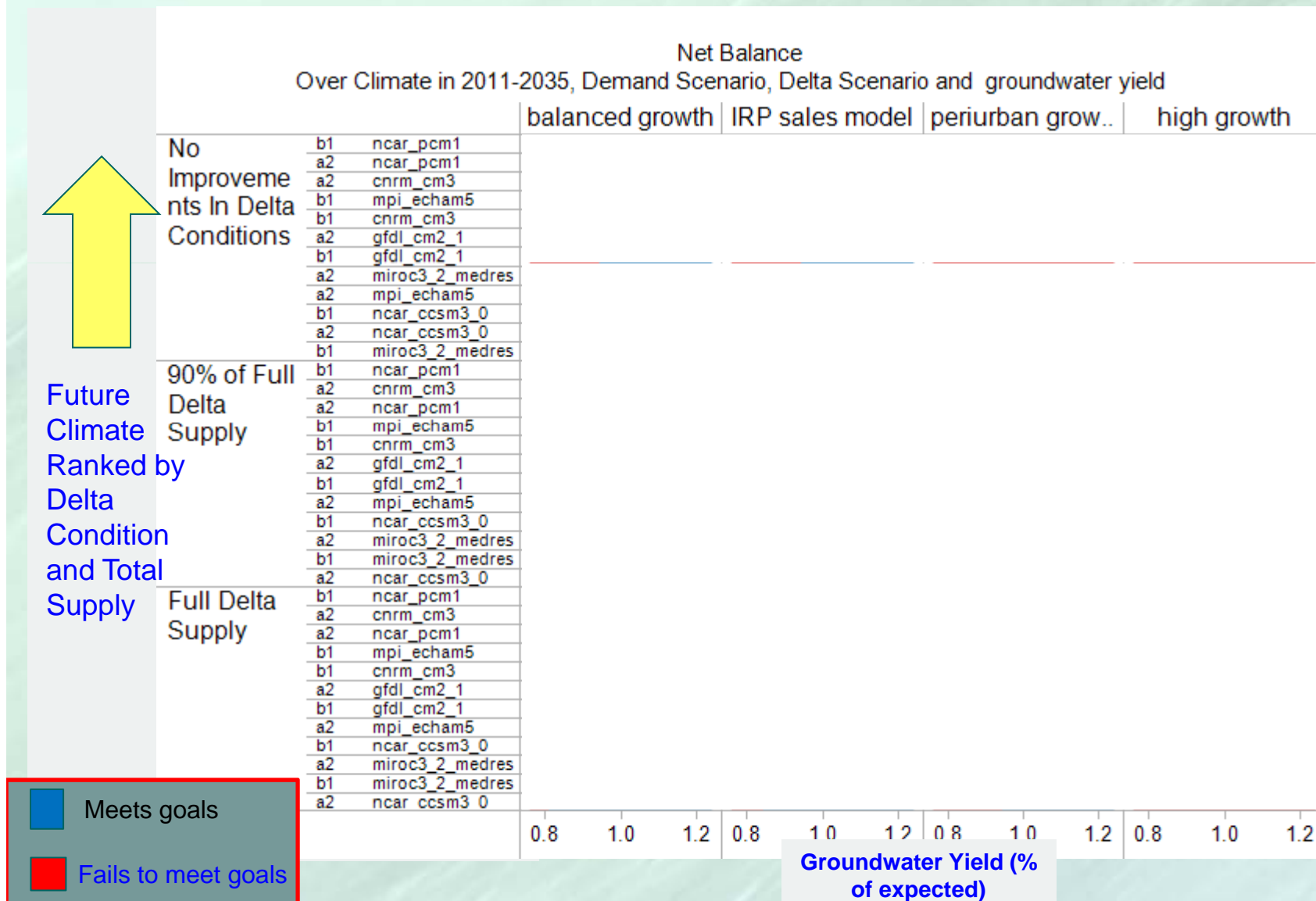
## Distribution of Supply Reliability Outcomes 2035



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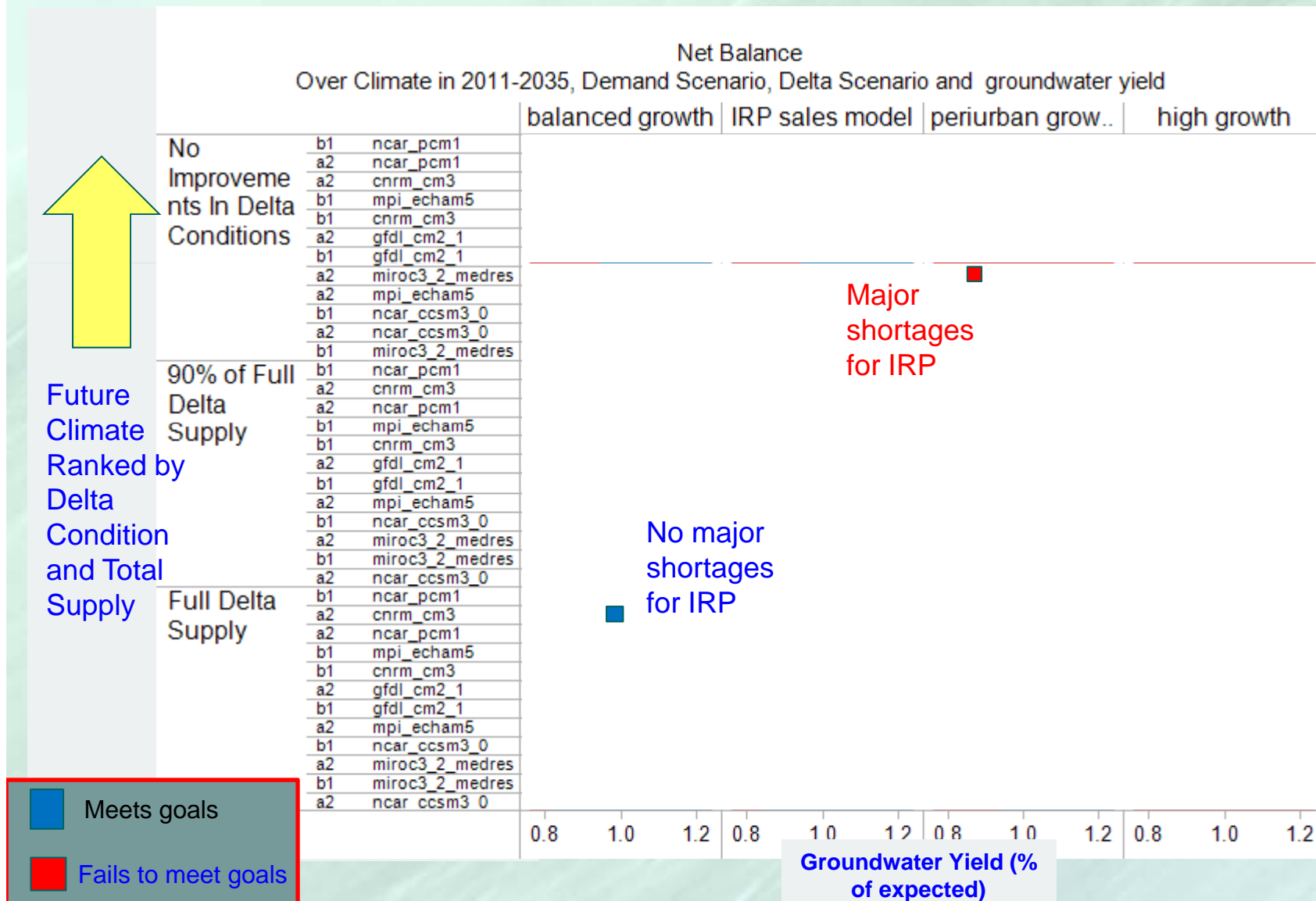


# Visualizations Show Key Drivers of Futures Where IRP May Fail to Meet Goals



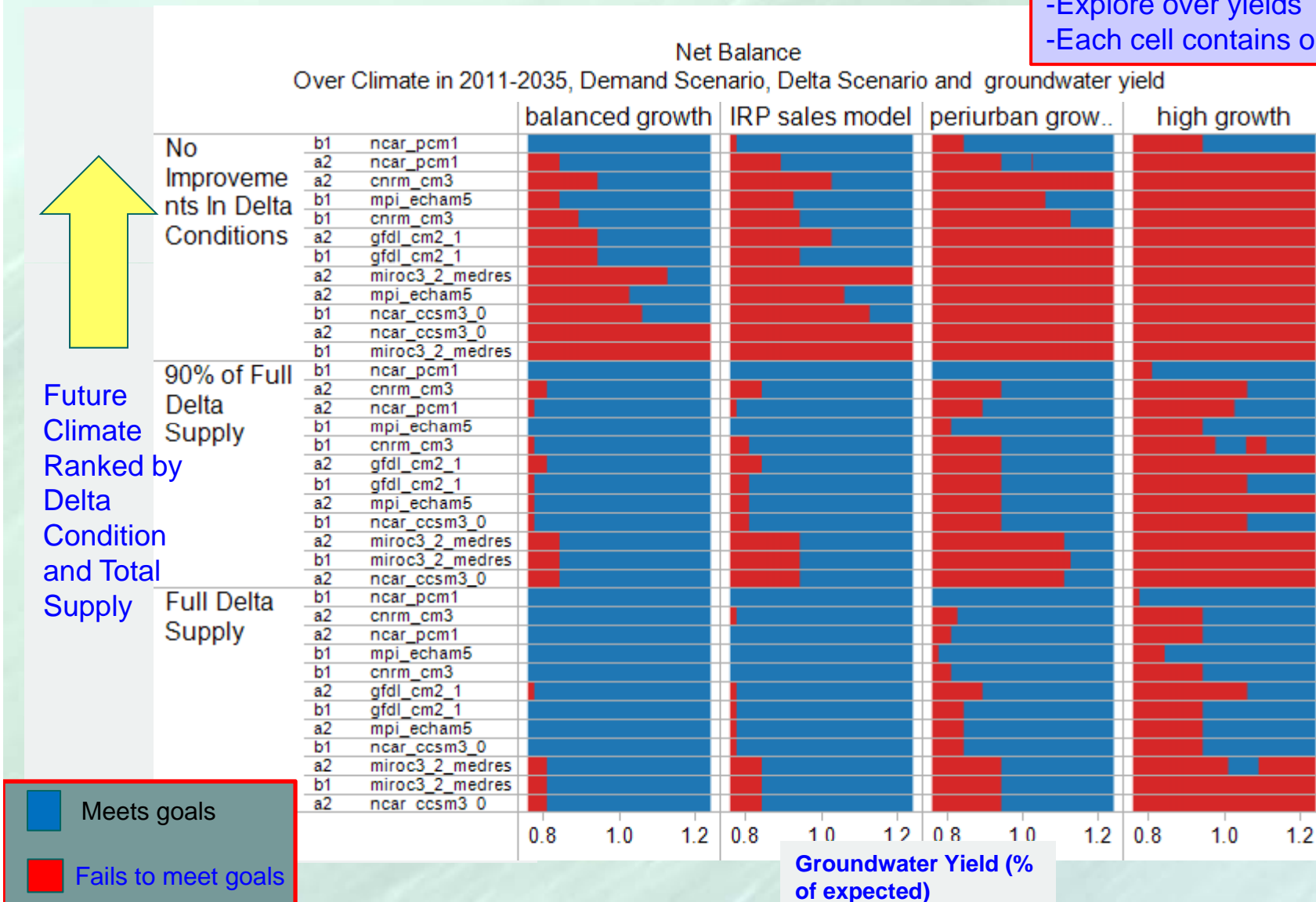


# Visualizations Show Key Drivers of Futures Where IRP May Fail to Meet Goals



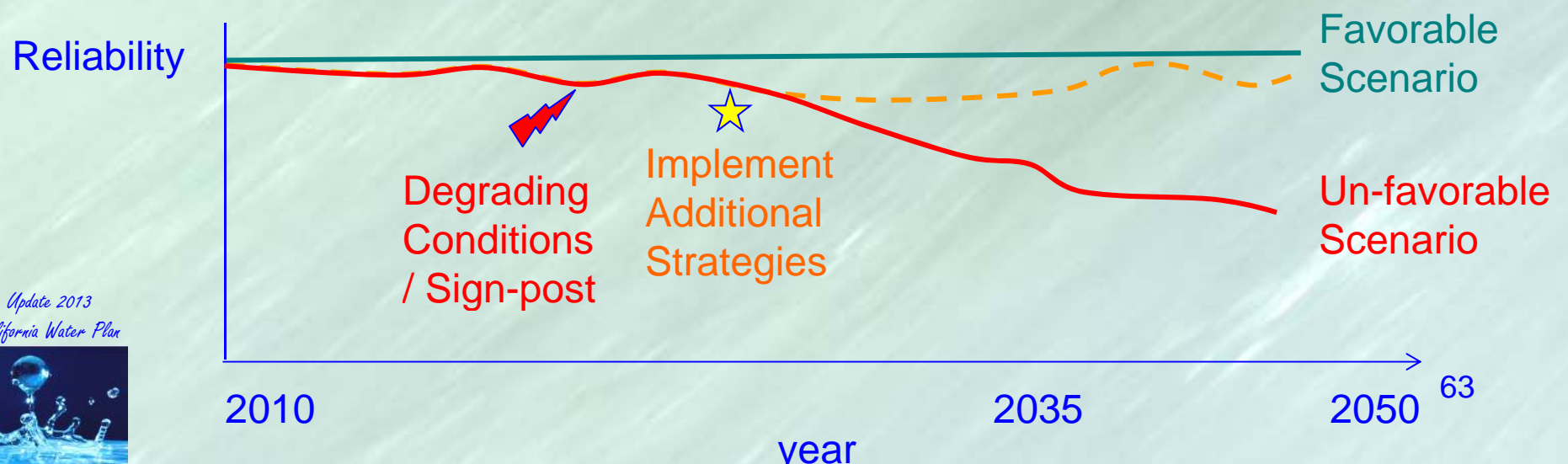
# Visualizations Show Key Drivers of Futures Where IRP May Fail to Meet Goals

- All delays at zero
- Explore over yields
- Each cell contains one case



# On-Going Analysis Identifying Signposts That Trigger Additional Implementation

- 💧 What specific conditions would the baseline IRP under perform?
- 💧 What should Metropolitan monitor to trigger additional investment needs?
  - Climate, demographic trends ; other supply conditions



# Questions on Case Studies?

